

## SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 845

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Elizabeth M. Irwin of Norris.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Elizabeth M. Irwin; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Irwin was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, the wife of Museum of Appalachia founder John Rice Irwin, Mrs. Irwin was most aptly referred to as the cornerstone of life at the museum; she helped in all aspects of the museum's operation upon its opening in 1969, including cooking, parking cars, and entertaining international guests; and

WHEREAS, the late *Roots* author Alex Haley often cited Mrs. Irwin's exceptional meals as one of the reasons he moved to East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a native of Lee County, Virginia, Mrs. Irwin met her future husband while they were students at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate; they married in 1954; and

WHEREAS, a breast cancer survivor, she worked with acumen and alacrity as an advocate for cancer patients, earning the respect of her community for the exemplary passion of her work; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Irwin was the much deserved recipient of the Joy Dirksen Baker Award, given by Baptist Hospital of East Tennessee in recognition of her contributions to help others afflicted with the disease; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Irwin was deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, she enjoyed the loving companionship of John Irwin and was the proud mother of Elaine I. Meyer, who directs daily operations at the museum, and Karen Erickson, who preceded Mrs. Irwin in death in 1999; and

WHEREAS, she will be sorely missed by her three grandchildren and a step-granddaughter; and

WHEREAS, Elizabeth Irwin leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Elizabeth M. Irwin, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Irwin.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.